

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6587
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GE, UK
SUBJECT: VISIT OF BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF TO GDR

1. GORDON MCLENNAN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN, PAID A WELL-PUBLISHED
VISIT TO THE GDR JANUARY 22-25 INCLUDING MEETINGS WITH
SED CHIEF ERICH HONECKER AND OTHER HIGH PARTY OFFICIALS.
MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE VISIT FOCUSED ON ANODYNE
EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL PRAISE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTY HEADS.

2. IN AN EXCHANGE OF TOASTS JANUARY 23 MCLENNAN
STATED THAT "THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF EACH
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PARTY IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PLEDGES
FOR OUR JOINT STRUGGLE AND ITS CONTINUATION."
HONECKER NOTED IN HIS REMARKS THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE RESULTS OF THE BERLIN CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST AND
WORKERS PARTIES (IN JUNE OF 1976) IT IS NECESSARY FOR
EACH PARTY TO "WORK OUT ITS POLICY WITH REGARD TO
THE CONCRETE SITUATION IN ITS OWN COUNTRY." HONECKER

ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM, A SUBJECT WHICH MCLENNAN DID NOT MENTION. A JOINT DECLARATION AT THE END OF THE VISIT CONTAINED STANDARD RHETORIC ON SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY IN THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND ANTI-CAPITALIST STRUGGLE. IT STATED FURTHER THAT THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT MUST, DESPITE SOME DIFFERENCES OF OPINION, CONTINUOUSLY STRIVE TO STRENGTHEN SOLIDARITY AND JOINT ACTION WHEREBY THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY, INDEPENDENCE AND NON-INTERFERENCE WILL BE STRICTLY OBSERVED. THE CPSU AND THE SOVIET UNION WERE NOT MENTIONED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION.

3. COMMENT. HONECKER'S FORMULATIONS DO NOT APPEAR TO REFLECT ANY CHANGE OF GDR POSITION ON EUROCOMMUNISM OR THE RELATIONS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES TO THE CPSU. AS IN THE PAST THE GDR HAS SOFT-PEDDLED THIS ISSUE AVOIDING PUBLIC CRITICISM OF OTHER PARTIES, MINIMIZING DIFFERENCES WHERE THEY EXIST BUT MAKING CLEAR ITS OWN LOYALTY TO THE SOVIET UNION. END COMMENT. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

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